

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-08

LAB-04 SIL-01 /062 W

-----108572 110642Z /13-11

R 101930Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1984

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN WORKERS' CONFEDERATION REQUESTS RELEASE OF
CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT ASUNCION DAILY (HOY) PUBLISHED
ON JANUARY 10 THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PARAGUAYAN CON-
FEDERATION OF WORKERS (CPT) OT THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND LABOR,
REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF THE WORKERS DETAINED ON DECEMBER 17.

2. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER, AS PUBLISHED IN THE PAPER, WAS AS
FOLLOWS:

"OUR NATIONAL CENTER OF WORKERS WAS INFORMED BY A MEMBER OF THE
PRESS (ULTIMA HORA OF DECEMBER 20, 1977) THAT A GROUP OF WORKERS
SUPPOSEDLY MEETING CLANDESTINELY IN AN UNNAMED LOCATION NEAR
YPACARAI HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY BY POLICE
ACTION. INCLUDED IN THE GROUP, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED, ARE
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MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF BANK WORKERS, OF THE UNION
OF PARAGUAYAN GRAPHIC ARTS WORKERS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES
OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORNAIZATIONS AND
NATIONAL GROUPS NOT DIRECTLY LINKED WITH OUR CENTER OF
WORKERS." "FURTHER," THE NOTE ADDED, "BEING IN POSSESSION
OF THE INFORMATION, THE CPT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION
OF THE WORKING CLASS OF OUR COUNTRY, WHETHER ORGANIZED

OR NOT, NATIONAL OR FOREIGN IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN THE FATE OF THESE WORKERS AND THE REASON FOR THEIR DETENTION. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE TURNING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY TO REQUEST YOUR INTERVENTION SO THAT IF NO CRIMES AGAINST THE PUBLIC ORDER CAN BE IMPUTED TO THIS GROUP, THEY BE FREED IN AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE."

"TO CLEAR UP OUR MOTIVES FOR TURNING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NEITHER THE ORANIZATION TOWHICH THESE WORKERS BELONG NOR THEIR FAMILIES HAVE TURNED TO THIS WORKERS' CENTER. THE CPT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SACRED PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNION FREEDOM, AS PROCLAIMED ALWAYS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND BY YOUR EXCELLENCY, HAS CONSIDERED IT ITS DUTY TO INTEREST ITSELF IN THE FATE OF THESE WORKERS. IF THEY ARE NOT INVOLVED IN COMMON CRIMES PUNISHABLE BY LAW, THEY SHOULD BE PLACED AT LIBERTY IMMEDIATELY."

"OUR WORKERS' CENTER, MR. MINISTER, TRUSTS COMPLETELY IN YOUR ACTIONS AND IN THE EAGERNESS FOR JUSTICE WHICH YOU HAVE ALWAYS DEMONSTRATED IN FAVOR OF THE WORKING CLASS OF OUR COUNTRY. FOR THIS REASON, WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR MEDIATION SO THAT THIS POLICE ACTION IS SETTLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW AND SO THAT IF NO CRIMES ARE PROVED, THESE INDIVIDUALS BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO THE FREEDOM WHICH IS THEIR NATURAL RIGHT AS FREE AND DINIFIEDHUMAN BEINGS."

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3. ALTHOUGH THIS LETTER WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED STRONG IN MANY COUNTRIES, IT IS THE FIRST TIME IN 23 YEARS THAT THE CPT HAS TAKENUP THE CUDGELS FOR ANY ARRESTED WORKER, OR THAT IT HAS IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED ANY GOVERNMENT ACTION.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, TRADE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCI00113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780015-1119
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780183/aaaacrpf.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f6b16de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3804107
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARAGUAYAN WORKERS' CONFEDERATION REQUESTS RELEASE OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.
TAGS: SHUM, ELAB, PA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f6b16de5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014